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States Department of Agriculture

Service

Program Aid No. 1325

Geologists and Mining Engineers:

Consider a Career in the
Forest Service





What Is the Forest Service?

The Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is the Federal agency responsible for managing the country's 190 million acres of National Forests and National Grasslands. This land, in 44 States, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, contains vast amounts of the Nation's natural resources including timber to produce the wood products on which American consumers depend, many strategic and energy minerals important to the Nation's economy, many species of wildlife, and water. Farmers and ranchers use its pastures for grazing their livestock. Each year, more than 100 million people visit the National Forests to experience their natural beauty and to participate in the wide variety of recreational activities that are available.

Managing the National Forests is much like managing any major enterprise. Many different kinds of jobs need to be done so that National Forest and Grassland resources are properly maintained and used for the benefit of all.

The Forest Service team includes a wide variety of professionals working in disciplines such as forestry, geology, hydrology, business administration, landscape architecture, range conservation, personnel management, soil science, wildlife management, and engineering. These professionals are men and women from diverse racial and ethnic groups who work as a team united by a common goal: to contribute to the management and use of National Forest resources to meet the needs of people and wildlife, now and in the future.

We are fortunate to have such a diverse team; and we realize that, as our challenges increase, so will our need for additional qualified professionals. This brochure explains how geologists and mining engineers contribute to the effort and how you can qualify for a place on the team.

Forest Service Geologists and Mining Engineers

Geologists and mining engineers provide vital technical expertise and skills needed in our team approach to managing natural resources. In many diverse ways, they actively contribute to the conservation and wise use of National Forest lands and resources.

National Forest System land contains large amounts of undeveloped resources. Geologists and mining engineers play a key role in facilitating the industrial development of these resources. As one of the Nation's primary Federal land management agencies, the Forest Service is in an excellent position to help industry plan and monitor minerals and energy activities to foster prudent mineral development and reclamation.

Most of our geologists and mining engineers work in the National Forest System, composed of 9 Regional Offices, 121 Forest Supervisor's Offices, and 655 Ranger District Offices; others work at the 8 Experiment Stations, 2 Equipment Development and Testing Centers, the Forest Products Laboratory, and our headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Minerals Geologists

About 50 percent of Forest Service geologists specialize in minerals. The duties they perform reflect the diversity of Forest Service work—they develop technical and environmental standards for exploration, development, and production of mineral resources; and they integrate these industrial operations into the overall land management responsibilities of the agency. They also oversee mined land reclamation activities, including management of esthetic values, wildlife, ground water and streamflow, vegetation, and other natural resources. As they gain more knowledge and experience, geologists may specialize in the management of locatable or leasable minerals, enter into broader minerals management careers, or become line managers in the organization. Geologists may also specialize in computer systems and computer-based assessments of the occurrence and potential development of minerals.

Engineering Geologists

The Forest Service also needs engineering geologists. These geologists assess and interpret geologic conditions that affect the safety, efficiency, and economy of engineering projects such as bridges, roads, dams, and buildings. The integrity of these structures depends upon how well they are adapted to their geologic environment. Our engineering geologists often work with geotechnical engineers to design and develop new geotechnical methods or techniques in landslide stability studies, seismic surveys, and subsurface investigations of soil and rock. With experience, engineering geologists may choose one of several careers, in much the same fashion as minerals geologists.

Mining Engineers

Duties of mining engineers in the Forest Service consist of examining lands to determine their mineral character, investigating mining claims to determine if requirements of the mining laws are being met, appraising mineral claims, reviewing lease applications and operating plans, and integrating mineral operations into the overall land management responsibilities of the agency. Mining engineers also present factual data and expert opinions at hearings and legal proceedings concerning the validity of mining claims and the value of mineral deposits. As mining engineers gain knowledge and experience, they may specialize in the management of specific minerals programs, enter into broader minerals management careers, or become line managers in the organization. Mining engineers may also specialize in computer systems similar to those available to the minerals geologist.





A Forest Service Career

If you qualify, you will join a team dedicated to managing a large part of the Nation's natural resources. You will probably begin your career in a Forest Supervisor's Office, working under the technical supervision of the senior minerals specialist or engineer, and live in a small community (10,000–20,000 population) near the National Forest in which you work. You will participate in a challenging variety of field and office assignments—often changing from day to day—that apply the latest state-of-the-art technology to the Forest environment. As your career advances, you will probably move to or near larger communities in different parts of the country, usually working as a member of the interdisciplinary Forest Service team under the technical supervision of senior minerals specialists or engineers. The office assignments may be in urban areas such as Portland, Oreg., Denver, Colo., or Atlanta, Ga.

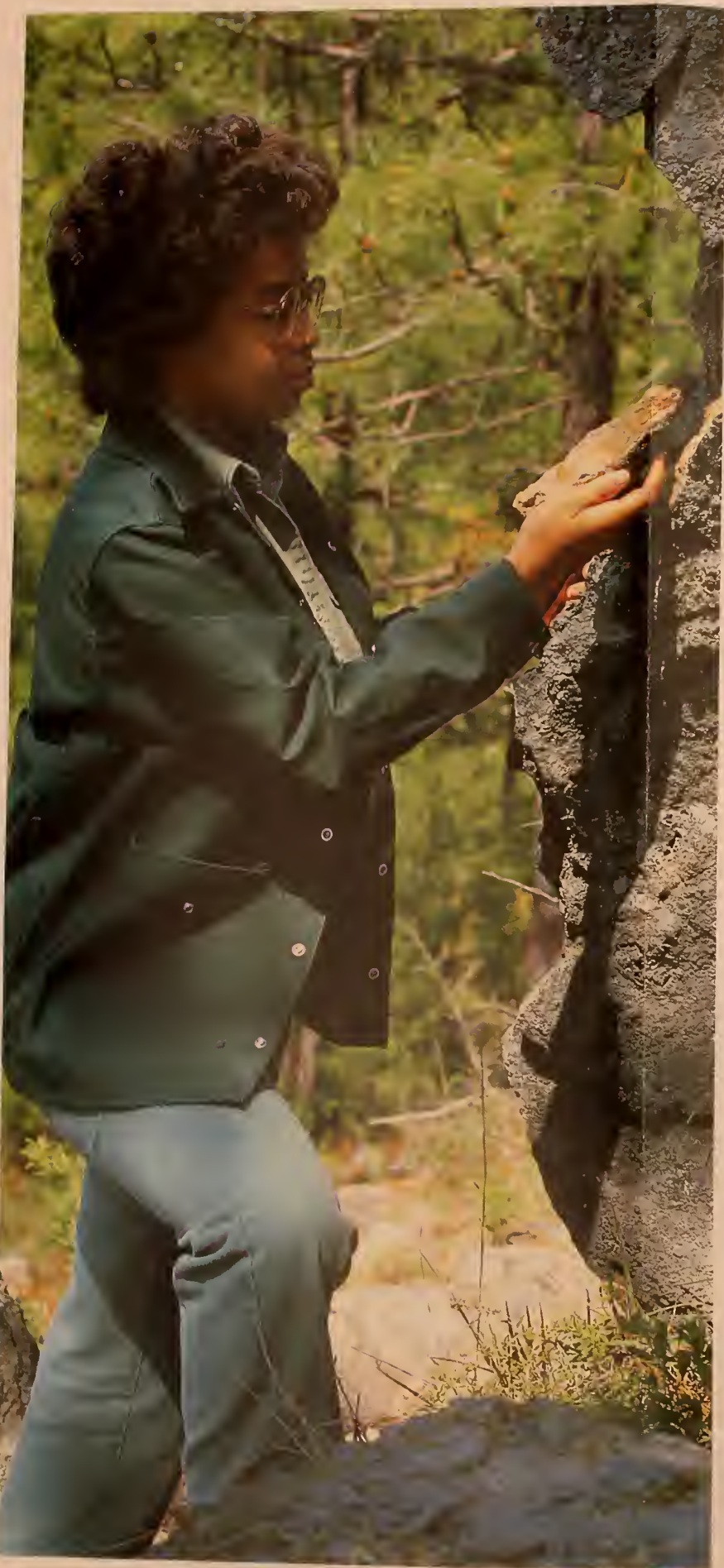
As you gain technical competence, you might choose to become a minerals or engineering geology specialist, working with the advanced technologies in your area of expertise. On the other hand, you might choose a career in management. Either can lead to more responsible positions in the Forest Supervisor's, Regional, or Washington Offices.

We encourage and recognize outstanding performance. Professionals move ahead according to their abilities, not their longevity. It is our policy that initial appointments in the Forest Service and all subsequent promotions are based on qualifications with equal opportunity for all. There is a vigorous and sustained affirmative action plan to carry out this policy. Whichever career path you choose, your advancement depends on the quality of your work and the career opportunities available. In other words, your changes in assignment and promotions will occur as you gain experience and develop expertise—as you prove that you have the ability to get the job done.

We encourage our geologists and mining engineers to advance themselves by continuing their education and by joining various professional societies. We especially encourage and support their efforts to become registered professionals.

Equal Opportunity

All Forest Service employment is based on qualifications without regard to race, color, creed, religion, handicap, sex, national origin, politics, marital status, age, membership or nonmembership in an employee organization, political or personal favoritism, or any other nonmerit factor.



Qualifications

No matter what their specialties may be, Forest Service geologists and mining engineers must meet certain standards. To qualify as a geologist or mining engineer, the candidate should have completed a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree in geology or mining engineering from an accredited college or university. Candidates can also qualify if they have combined education and experience comparable to a 4-year college curriculum in geology or mining engineering. The work experience must provide candidates with the knowledge needed to demonstrate that they can perform professional mining engineering or geological work. Candidates can qualify for higher level positions if they have graduate credits, advanced degrees, or professional experience.

Benefits

Career planning, equal opportunity, merit advancements, and periodic pay increases are supported by other benefits offered you as an employee of the U.S. Government.

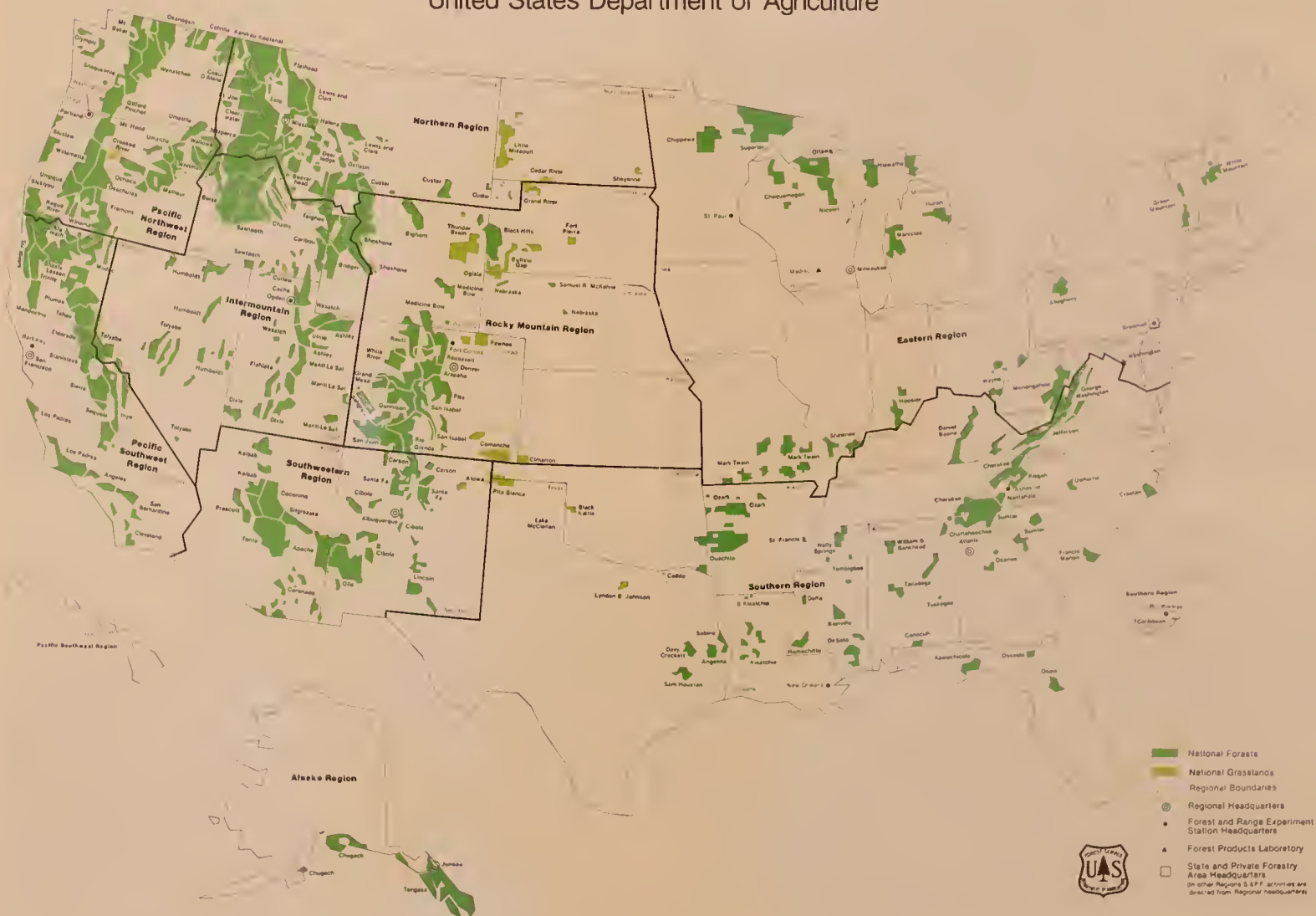
- Nine paid Federal holidays each year.
- Generous annual leave, with 13 workdays of annual leave with pay for your first year of service.
- Sick leave with pay, for illness or injury, built up as you work at the rate of 1 day for each 4 weeks on the job, with no limit on the amount of sick leave you can earn.
- Military leave with pay, separate from annual leave, for members of the Armed Forces Reserve and National Guard.
- Low-cost group life insurance.
- Group health benefits, both family and individual.
- Compensation for injuries received on the job.
- Survivor benefits after 18 months of service and eligibility for disability retirement after 5 years of service.
- Job security. On completion of your third full year in the Forest Service, you will be in career status in the Government civil service system, one of the most stable forms of employment in the Nation.





The Forest Service

United States Department of Agriculture



For More Information

- If you are interested—
- If you qualify—
- If you want to join a highly respected team whose professionalism and contributions have been applauded by the scientific community, conservation groups, industry, Congress, and other nations—
- If the challenges of protecting our Nation's natural resources appeal to you—
- If you can meet the continuing challenge of providing high-quality mining engineering and geological work—

Please write to any of the addresses listed for information about specific opportunities.

Chief, USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 2417
Washington, DC 20013

Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service:

Northern Region

Federal Bldg.
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

Rocky Mountain Region

11177 West 8th Ave.
P.O. Box 25127
Lakewood, CO 80225

Southwestern Region

Federal Bldg.
517 Gold Ave. SW.
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Intermountain Region

Federal Bldg.
324 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401

Pacific Southwest Region

630 Sansome St.
San Francisco, CA 94111

Pacific Northwest Region

319 SW Pine St.
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208

Southern Region

1720 Peachtree Rd., NW.
Atlanta, GA 30367

Eastern Region

310 West Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Alaska Region

Federal Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 1628
Juneau, AK 99802

Director, USDA Forest Service:

Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

507 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401

North Central Forest Experiment Station

1992 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Northeastern Forest Experiment Station

370 Reed Rd.
Broomall, PA 19008

Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station

809 NE Sixth Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station

1960 Addison St.
P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, CA 94701

Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station

240 West Prospect St.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

Southeastern Forest Experiment Station

200 Weaver Blvd.
Asheville, NC 28804

Southern Forest Experiment Station

T-10210, U.S. Postal Service Bldg.
701 Loyola Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70113

Forest Products Laboratory

Gifford Pinchot Dr.
P.O. Box 5130
Madison, WI 53705

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